

Wanting to see his children grow up in a place that valued equality, Samuel Richardson fought for it in numerous ways, such as by picketing the F.W. Woolworth's in St. Paul to advocate for equal access and jobs for African Americans there. He advocated for fair housing. He marched with Martin Luther King in Washington in 1963. He joined numerous organizations and served as their leader.

Virginia Bardwell Richardson was born in Huntington, Tennessee. She attended the University of Minnesota, became a mother, and has always been passionate about education. She joined local activist organizations and served in leadership positions throughout her entire adult life.

When Samuel was hired by Supermarket giant Applebaum's in a prominent marketing position, he was one of the only black advertising directors west of Chicago. After a long career with Applebaum's, he became the Minnesota State Commissioner of Human Rights. There, he focused on new laws to address discrimination of all kinds, and to promote protections for people with disabilities. He then worked for the State of Minnesota's Department of Education, where he remained from 1971 until 1997.

While raising four children, Virginia was a critical part of volunteer organizations, including Assistant Chair of the Minneapolis Democratic-Farmer-Labor party, Minneapolis Public Schools' quality committee and the Minnesota Epilepsy Board. Almost 25 years ago, she went to work full-time at the PACER Center (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights). Today, she serves as its manager of Parent Training.

Samuel and Virginia are founders of the Bryant Village Initiative. This neighborhood-based organization works to make residents' voices heard about the effectiveness of city and county programs. It also provides critical input to the police department and welfare programs to help make their work more successful.

The Richardsons are heavily involved in the Oakland Methodist Church. Both were active in their children's school Parent Teacher Associations. They have also been active politically, including work on the campaign to help the first black woman Mayor of Minneapolis get her start in politics.

"Most people are simply sitting and waiting to be led. All you have to do is step up and do it," Samuel Richardson said. "You want to see change and you want to see people enjoy all the things the Constitution offers."

Mr. Speaker, this generous activist couple is one example of the critical leadership required for the change that makes our nation a better place. Samuel and Virginia Richardson have advocated for positive change in our country on behalf of African Americans, women, the disabled, and the poor. I can only hope that today we are developing leaders for the future who have the Richardsons' same high level of dedication to public service.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND
GEOFFREY B. CURTISS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Geoffrey B. Curtiss on the

25th anniversary of his ministry at All Saints Episcopal Parish and the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The parish will celebrate these important milestones at a service and reception on March 5, 2005, in Hoboken, New Jersey.

During his years as a priest, Rev. Curtiss has gone above and beyond his duties to his parish. With incredible motivation and a sincere desire to improve the lives of others, he has diligently worked to build a network of support services and organizations that have helped revitalize and transform the community. Upon beginning his service in Hudson County, Rev. Curtiss oversaw the consolidation of three, local Episcopal churches into one, now known as the All Saints Episcopal Parish. From the beginning, the church established a precedent for being progressive and accepting and welcoming people from all stages of life and segments of the community. Under Rev. Curtiss's strong leadership and creative vision, the All Saints Episcopal Parish has become more than a place of worship for its nearly 300 congregants; it is well-known for its community outreach initiatives and ministries. In addition to the church, Hudson County benefits from related programs Rev. Curtiss has helped found such as the All Saints Episcopal Day School, the youth ministry known as WOODY, and the Jubilee Family Life Center, which offers an after-school program and summer camp for youth from the Hoboken housing projects.

An influential member of the community, Rev. Curtiss has held numerous leadership positions in the past and continues to be greatly involved. For the Christ Hospital, Rev. Curtiss is the chair of both the Community Relations Committee and the Quality Improvement Committee, vice-chair of the Board of Trustees, and a member of the Transitional Committee. He is the president of the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice and treasurer of the Jubilee Interfaith Organization, which promotes immigrant rights and worker justice.

As president of the Hoboken Clergy Coalition in 1982, Rev. Curtiss was instrumental in the establishment of the Hoboken Shelter for the Homeless. A past president of the Board of Trustees of the Hoboken North Hudson YMCA and past president of the Hoboken Rotary Club, Rev. Curtiss is still an active member of both organizations. He is also a member of the Diocesan Council, the Episcopal Urban Caucus, the Department of Missions Board, the Commission to Dismantle Racism, and the non-profit housing board known as the Union City Renaissance Urban Renewal Association.

Rev. Curtiss received his bachelor's degree from Gettysburg College and later graduated with a master's degree from the Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Geoffrey B. Curtiss for his years of dedicated, selfless service to the community. His passion to help those in need and strong leadership cannot be matched—and his work has touched the lives of countless individuals in Hoboken and the greater community. We congratulate him on his important career milestones and we are grateful to have such a positive force supporting and serving the community.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY PFC MIN S.
CHOI

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a New Jersey resident who served with dignity and honor as a soldier in Iraq. I join his family, friends and members of his community in mourning this great loss.

On Saturday, February 26, Army Private First Class Min S. Choi, 21, of River Vale, New Jersey died in Athertha, Iraq when an explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Choi was assigned to the Army Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

A resident of River Vale, N.J., Choi attended Pascack Valley High School. PFC Choi and his family emigrated to the United States from South Korea seven years ago. Following graduation in 2003, Choi enlisted in the Army because he wanted to serve his new country, and aspired to become a military officer and a United States citizen. His commitment to his adopted country and home humble us, and underscore how much we must treasure and protect the freedoms and democratic ideals of our great nation.

This loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When their Nation called them to duty to preserve freedom and the security of our neighbors, they answered without hesitation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere privilege to recognize the life of a proud soldier and heroic representative of the State of New Jersey. Army PFC Min S. Choi was an honorable defender of liberty and he deserves our gratitude and respect.

We remember those who have fallen not only as soldiers, but also as patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. May we keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they struggle to endure this difficult period and mourn the heroes America has lost.

TRIBUTE TO PEOPLE OF NAGORNO
KARABAKH

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the people of Nagorno Karabakh, who recently celebrated the seventeenth anniversary of their National Freedom Movement.

On February 20, 1988, the courageous people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to reunite their homeland with Armenia. They sought to correct the injustices of the brutal Stalin regime, under which the ethnic Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh was involuntarily placed within the borders of Azerbaijan.

Despite the peaceful request by the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement, the